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## REPORT

ON

# NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 30th December 1905.

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## II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

## (a)—Police.

**THE Santi [Madaripur]** of the 15th December says that, a few days ago, a

A case of suspected murder in man, named Mahendra, a liquor vendor of Ganga-nagar bandar, under the Palang thana, in the Faridpur district.

Faridpur district, was missed. Four or five days after his dead body, bearing marks of violence, was discovered in the river below Chikandi. The local dafadar came, but went away leaving the corpse in charge of the brother-in-law of the deceased. Night came and this man, afraid of remaining alone in the company of a dead body, went away. The Sub-Inspector of the Palang thana came to the spot at midnight, but the dead body was nowhere to be found. All this is a mystery ! Palang is two hours' journey from Chikandi. Why was the Sub-Inspector then so late in coming to the spot ?

2. The *Ratnakar* [Asansol] of the 23rd December draws the attention of

A complaint against the Asansol Railway Police. the Inspector and Sub-Inspector of Police, Asansol, to the case in which a railway passenger, who, on the 18th December last, was waiting with his

young wife at the station in expectation of a train, was harassed by the railway police, who wanted to drag them both to the thana on the alleged ground that the man was eloping with the woman who was not his wife. It was only when the Head Ticket Collector, who was a European, intervened and remonstrated with the police, that the latter let the man and his wife alone.

3. According to the *Sanjivani*, says the *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 23rd

Conduct of the Rajshahi Police. December, a Musalman Sub-Inspector accompanied by a Musalman pleader raided the Brahmo temple at Rampur Boalia while the Brahmos, including Babu Ambica Charan Sen, the District Judge, were listening to a sermon, in order to see if the sermon contained any sedition. The paper remarks :—

"The authorities have so far lost their head as to invade a Prayer Hall."

## (b)—Working of the Courts.

4. The *Medini Bandhab* [Midnapur] of the 20th December says that

Mutation of names in the Mid-napur district. great oppression is being committed on poor people in the Midnapur district in connection with mutation of names. Notices for mutation of names

are being served on even those who have already done the work. The clerks of the Mutation Office know that, the more people will come to them, the more they will be gainers. The attention of the District Collector is drawn to the matter.

5. The *Sandhya* [Calcutta] of the 23rd December writes as follows under the heading "Wailings in Jalpaiguri":—

The sentence passed on Durgadas and Adyanath. "Jalpaiguri town was enveloped yesterday in darkness. Those who were present there yesterday in the Court of the *Feringhee* judicial officers saw that Court flooded with black coat-tar. Durgadas and Adyanath have each been sentenced to 14 days' imprisonment with hard labour, and the boy Chandidas has been sentenced to pay a fine of rupees fifty. O horror! these two respectable men have been sent to jail where they will have to work at oil-mills.

A new life sprouted forth in us on the day on which the Rangpur boys left the *Feringhee* school. Dacca, Madaripore and Noakhali have then watered the seedling. But now the root of that life has been strengthened. When Durgadas and Adyanath return from jail, may festivities be held in the town for their release, and may the townsmen entertain them at a sumptuous banquet. May everybody put garlands round their and Prafulla's necks and dance carrying them on his shoulders. This imprisonment or whipping is no disgrace at all. It is no punishment but a mark of Divine favour. Be of good cheer, be of good cheer, a new life has now begun for Bengalis!"

SANTI,  
Dec. 15th, 1905.

RATNAKAR,  
Dec. 23rd, 1905.

BHARAT MITRA,  
Dec. 23rd, 1905.

MEDINI BANDHAB,  
Dec. 20th 1905.

SANDHYA,  
Dec. 23rd, 1905.

HITVARTA,  
Dec. 24th, 1905.

6. The *Hitvarta* [Calcutta] of the 24th December does not understand why the authorities are displeased with Babu Punishment of Deputy Magistrates. Mahanand Gupta, Deputy Magistrate and Collector of Stamps, Calcutta. The paper is surprised that the pay of this officer has been considerably reduced. It is only the other day that the Deputy Magistrate of Jessorah has been dismissed for some irregularities in the collection of revenue. It is not therefore possible to say what the present policy of the Government is.

HITVARTA.

7. Referring to the appearance of the Advocate-General before the High Court to argue the rule issued against the Magistrate of Rangpur in the special Constable's case, the same paper asks if the prestige of the Government is increased or lowered by making so much fuss in such a case.

(d)—*Education.*

YOMI,  
Dec. 21st, 1905.

8. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 21st December says that recently the Principal of the Chittagong College has issued a most improper circular against students taking part in the *Swadeshi* movement, and that this circular should at once be withdrawn.

DAILY HITAVADI,  
Dec. 22nd, 1905.

9. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 22nd December has been sorry to learn that Mahamahopadhyaya Hara Prasad Sastri, Principal of the Sanskrit College, did not permit a Muhammadan student of the Harjivanpur School to appear at the Sanskrit Examination, and is at a loss to understand on what grounds the Principal refused permission. If it be not culpable according to the *Sastras* for a Brahman like the Sastri to serve under *yavana* masters, how can there be anything wrong for a Musalman to learn Sanskrit? The writer would have been spared the unpleasantness of having to refer to the matter, if Pandit Hara Prasad had shaped his conduct according to the necessities of the times.

BANGAVASI,  
Dec. 23rd, 1905.

10. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 23rd December thinks that the cause of the fall noticed by Government in the Lower Primary education in Bengal. number of Lower Primary students in Bengal is that many cultivators have ceased to send their boys to Lower Primary schools, because they have learnt by experience that the little education which boys receive in such schools has the effect of turning them into Babus and service-hunters and making them disinclined to follow their ancestral occupations.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

CHARU MIHIR,  
Dec. 26th, 1905.

11. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 19th December draws Mr. Fuller's attention to a violent outbreak of Cholera in Mymensingh. Many people have died of the disease in Samaj and other villages within the Barhatta thana of the Netrakona subdivision, as well as in many places within the Durgapur thana. The disease is also said to be raging in Bajitpur. Timely medical assistance should be sent to places where there are no good doctors. The editor will be happy to find the authorities displaying the same zeal in saving the lives of the people, as they have done in suppressing the *Swadeshi* movement.

SRI SRI VISHNU-  
PRIYA-O-ANANDA  
BAZAB PATRIKA,  
Dec. 21st, 1905,

12. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 21st December says that there is no longer any necessity of maintaining the Plague Department of the Calcutta Municipality, the duties of which can well be performed by the Municipal Health Department. Considering the large salaries the officers of the latter Department draw they have not got sufficient work to do. Very few of the subordinate members of the Department know anything of hygiene, and they are generally indolent. The attention of the authorities concerned is drawn to the matter.

## (f)—Questions affecting the land.

13. The *Hitvarta* [Calcutta] of the 24th December notices the high-handed and overbearing conduct of the Manager of the Rohini Estate at Deoghur and cites, as an instance, the assault by him on a clerk of his office and his refusing to receive letters addressed to him as Manager by Kaviraj Upendra Nath Sen, of Calcutta.

HITVARTA,  
Dec. 24th, 1905.

## (h)—General.

14. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 19th December writes as follows:—

*Government and the Swadeshi agitation.* The cardinal policy of British rule in this country is to give preference to the interests of Englishmen over those of Indians. Such being the case, it is idle to expect the active support, or even a friendly attitude, on the part of Government in this *Swadeshi* agitation. This agitation has produced loud lamentations in Manchester, and it is no wonder that the Government of India should be moved by that cry of distress. Be the Viceroy of India whoever he may be, be he Lord Minto or any body else, he will not have the courage to ignore the interests of the English mercantile community. All that we therefore look for from Government in this matter is liberty for Bengalis to choose what they shall eat and what they shall wear. But it would seem as if even that liberty is going to be denied to them. Why else should an effort be made by Government to break the back-bone of the *Swadeshi* agitation on a plea of rebellion? Why else should police forces be stationed in different places in Bengal and why should they seek to promote the sale of foreign goods by unlawful means? We tried to introduce the use of indigenous goods by means of lawful persuasion. Government is maintaining the sale of foreign goods with the help of the police and the soldiery, and it has set down our attempt as unlawful and seditious conduct.

CHARU MIHIR,  
Dec. 19th, 1905.

What is patriotism elsewhere is sedition in India, and conduct which would have been trumpeted forth in Europe has brought upon us the reprobation of Government.

The replies given by the Government of India to the interpellations by Rai Sriram Bahadur in the Viceregal Council on the oppressions in Barisal have filled many with despair. But we, for one, are not discouraged by those replies. Lord Minto has come but lately to this country, and a more hopeful reply is not to be looked for from him for the present. Nor would it be reasonable to expect that Lord Minto should publicly censure Mr. Fuller's action. But, if we look attentively at the present state of things all round, we shall find Lord Minto's invisible hand in everything. Gurkha oppression has ceased at Barisal, the police has assumed a milder attitude at Serajganj, and in other places too the officials have dropt their fierce demeanour. But we say again that no one should expect the sympathy of Government with this *Swadeshi* movement, and that everyone should trust to himself. Unless we can keep alive this agitation, all our hopes will vanish. We must, therefore, maintain it by all lawful means, even at the cost of total ruin. We shall obey the laws without a murmur, never fail to show respect for Government, but at the same time never give up this agitation."

CHARU MIHIR.

15. The same paper says that Mr. Clarke, the District Magistrate of Mymensingh, has fallen into a great many errors within a short time, because he is a stranger to the customs and laws and regulations of this Province

*Mr. Clarke, District Magistrate of Mymensingh.* and because he has not kept himself in touch with the local leaders. Mr. Clarke is also warned against trusting too implicitly in police reports, and reminded that it was by reason of the implicit reliance placed by his predecessor, Mr. Phillip, on a particular police officer that he got into such trouble and disgrace. In these days, when the police is seeking to arrogate to itself Magisterial functions to the great alarm of the public, Mr. Clarke should rather keep a sharp eye on the police and try to keep it in proper check.

SANJIVANI,  
Dec. 21st, 1905.

16. Referring to an alleged conversation between the Assistant Magistrate of "Madaripur and Babu Taraprasanna Sen, B.L., Merchant's broker" or English Chairman of the Madaripur Municipality, on the subject of the *Swadeshi* movement, the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 21st December writes as follows:—

We shall give up using foreign articles; we shall request everybody to use *Swadeshi* goods; we shall provide the poor weavers and artisans of our country with the means of livelihood. But Mr. Fuller and his subordinate Magistrates are trying to prevent us from doing all this. Nevertheless we shall work on disregarding all obstacles. This commercial conflict will either save us or kill us. There is no middle path left to us between the two alternatives of living and dying in this fight. What the people want to know is, whether Mr. Fuller and his subordinate Magistrates, who eat the salt of Bengal, will act as broker in the employé of English merchants, or will apply themselves to the task of doing good to the children of the soil.

SRI SRI VISHNU-  
PRIYA-O-ANANDA  
BAZAR PATRIKA,  
Dec. 21st, 1905.

17. It is rumoured, says the *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* Hindus and Musalmans in [Calcutta] of the 21st December, that attempts are being made to create a breach between the Hindus and the Musalmans in Eastern Bengal and

induce the latter not to pay any rents that may be due from them to the former. This is the effect of making distinctions of creed and colour which Mr. Fuller is doing in the new Province.

SRI SRI VISHNU-  
PRIYA-O-ANANDA  
BAZAR PATRIKA.

The District Superintendent of Police, Rajshahi, and the *Swadeshi* movement.

18. Referring to a conversation, which is said to have taken place between the District Superintendent of Police, Rajshahi, and Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri, M.A., B.L., the Vice-Chairman of the Rajshahi District Board, on the subject of the latter's adherence to the

*Swadeshi* cause, the same paper says:—

All officials in Eastern Bengal sing in one and the same tune, and they all display manners befitting inhabitants of the jungles of Assam. These officials have everywhere been threatening the people with the presence of Gurkhas. But they ought to know that familiarity with objects of dread gradually makes people even to tolerate their presence. Bengalis fear disloyalty and illegality more than they fear Gurkhas. And they have no cause to fear Gurkhas more than they fear plague, cholera, malaria or rupture of the spleen.

SANJIVANI,  
Dec. 21st, 1905.

The Rajshahi police and the *Swadeshi* movement.

19. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 21st December says that recently fifty armed police Constables, headed by an Inspector and a Sub-Inspector of Police, dispersed, by show of force, a meeting held at Rajshahi

on a piece of private land in favour of the *Swadeshi* movement. Now, where there is no danger of the public peace being broken, the police has no right to disperse a meeting like the above. The Rajshahi police will soon suffer the fruit of the above iniquitous act on their part.

DAILY HITAVADI,  
Dec. 22nd, 1905..

Government and the *Swadeshi* movement.

20. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 22nd December writes as follows under the heading "Where will it end?":—

The *Swadeshi* agitation and the official oppression to which it has given rise have naturally led many people to ask when will both these come to an end? The answer is very easy. The strained relations between the rulers and the ruled will come to an end as soon as one of the parties makes a complete sacrifice of its interest, but not so long as each party tries its best to maintain its own interest.

Never since the assumption of the sceptre by the English in India was there such a clashing of the interests of the rulers and the ruled as there is just at present. The Sepoy Mutiny of 1857 cannot be called a collision between the rulers and the ruled. It was merely a rebellion of the paid sepoys in the employ of the East India Company, in which the general body of the subject-people, far from taking sides with the sepoys, rendered the outmost help to the rulers.

In the present agitation, too, there has been no breach between the rulers and the ruled. But the means which the people of India have adopted for the amelioration of their arts and industries can never gain any support

from the alien commercial people who are now our rulers. If the *Swadeshi* agitation is not checked, the whole English people must sustain pecuniary loss. English merchants will be completely ruined, if the import of English goods into India is stopped. And it goes without saying that the English who gained an admittance into the country on the plea of commerce and then converted the beam of the tradesman's balance into a sceptre will never consent to see their own trade and commerce ruined before their eyes.

The English may give us more political privileges and a greater share in the administration of the country, if we demand them, but will on no account consent to anything that will interfere with their trade and commerce. To keep their trade and commerce intact, they will trample under their feet all the duties and obligations of rulers, rather than remain a silent looker-on while the *Swadeshi* agitation achieves its ends. What does the unjust oppression of the people going on in East Bengal and in some places of West Bengal, in the name of the preservation of the public peace, mean? It means that the authorities are afraid, not of any breach of the public peace, but of a loss of English trade and commerce, first in Bengal and then throughout India. It is not really the prospect of a quarrel between Hindus and Musalmans or sincere anxiety for the future welfare of our boys which has led Government to adopt the repressive measures. Government, as we said before, saw no necessity for appointing special Constables, when the cow slaughter quarrel between Hindus and Musalmans was at its height, or when the Talla riot convulsed the town of Calcutta, Government saw no harm in school-boys joining political meetings held in the cause of the Partition agitation or the Consent Bill agitation. But the moment the Hindus and the Musalmans combined to forswear the use of foreign goods and take to the use of home-made articles, Government saw the likelihood of a quarrel between Hindus and Musalmans and took to a repressive policy, and especially to a policy of repressing its Hindu subjects. And the moment school-boys gave up political agitation and took up the *Swadeshi* agitation, the authorities became overwhelmed with solicitude for their future welfare. Even the most stupid man can see through the object of the Government.

It is clear that the authorities will on no account allow the *Swadeshi* movement to gain in strength. On our part, on the other hand, we must do our utmost to keep the movement alive, as our very existence in the world depends upon it.

Within the few months, since the beginning of the movement, a large number of people who were without employment before have found a means of earning their livelihood. This shows that if the movement lasts, the improvement of the indigenous arts and industries will secure a livelihood for a very large number of our fellow countrymen. It is therefore everybody's duty, in spite of the attempts of the selfish English merchant to stop the movement, to stick to it and go on using country-made things. In this matter the interests of the rulers and those of the ruled will never agree, and there is therefore no means of removing the ill-feeling between the parties.

So long we were blind to our own condition, and failed also to see our rulers in their true colours. This partition agitation has shown us that, though it is the Government's object to keep us deprived of political privileges, its principal object in India is to trample the interests of the people under foot in order to promote the interests of English merchants. Lord Curzon aimed a blow at English education, because that education had enabled us to see how we can best promote our interests. The officials he has left behind are now openly following in his footsteps and are determined to ruin the indigenous arts and industries. There is, however, no law in existence by virtue of which they can directly prohibit us to use country-made goods. They are therefore trying to find false excuses, like the likelihood of a breach of the peace, to put down the movement. But, seeing how serious the situation is becoming, it is not probable that they will long rely on false pretexts to achieve their object, but will very likely seek openly to strike at the root of the *Swadeshi* movement by enacting a law on the line of the Universities Validating Act.

But, whatever the authorities might do, we on our part must stick to our object. We must take a resolution not to take to the path of destruction, even under oppression sanctioned by the law. If we are frightened by oppression,

our fate will be sealed. The *Swadeshi* agitation may make India happy and prosperous, fit to take its place beside England in company with Australia, Canada, New Zealand and South Africa, or it may leave us a poor, weak, starving, emaciated people, dependent upon another and speeding to our destruction, our sole aim in life being slavery to another.

BANGPUR  
VARTAVAHAN,  
Dec. 22nd, 1905.

21. The *Rangpur Vartavaha* [Rangpur] of the 22nd December says that Mr. Fuller has inaugurated a reign of anarchy and oppression in Eastern Bengal with himself as its despotic ruler. For this he may receive the adoration of tea-planters and a few other *Firingis*, but the Emperor is sure to punish him for it. Mr. Fuller has only his service to look after in India, but His Majesty has much higher interests in the land concerning the welfare of his subjects.

BHARAT MITRA,  
Dec. 23rd, 1905.

22. From Mr. Fuller's statements in connection with the withdrawal of the Gurkha soldiers from Barisal, says the *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 23rd December, one would infer that Mr. Fuller thought that the presence of the Gurkha soldiers at Barisal had brought the people of that place round; but the latter say that it is Mr. Fuller who has now cooled down after making the people suffer so much oppression for some unknown reason. The officials of this country exercise Divine powers and can do what they like.

SWADESH,  
Dec. 25th, 1905.

23. The *Swadesh* [Calcutta] of the 25th December says that affairs in Eastern Bengal lead people to think that the country has passed under Russian rule. Whoever thought that such a thing as that which recently happened at Shampukur, Calcutta, between the police and the citizens, was possible under British rule? The two Lieutenant-Governors of Bengal have become oppressive, and Lord Minto is indifferent. The Almighty alone knows what is in his mind. But it is feared that the present policy of administration, if pursued much longer, will do immense harm to the country.

HINDI BANGAVASI.  
Dec. 25th, 1905.

24. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 25th December infers from the audience granted by the Viceroy on the 16th November (?) to Babus Surendra Nath Banerjea and A. Chaudhuri, who are the chief representatives of the educated community of the united Bengal and staunch supporters of the *Swadeshi* movement, that the attention of the Government of India has at last been drawn to the lamentations of the united Bengal.

HINDI BANGAVASI.

The Viceroy and the representatives of the people.

Sending of Gurkhas to Barisal and Lord Kitchener.

25. The same paper says it is rumoured that Lord Kitchner did not approve of the policy of sending Gurkha soldiers to Barisal, and remarks that no one can understand better than Lord Kitchener the oppression likely to be committed by Gurkha soldiers.

BHARAT MITRA,  
Dec. 28th, 1905.

26. A correspondent of the *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 23rd December under the *nom de plume* Shew Sambhu sends an address of welcome to Lord Minto in which the following occurs:—

The people are not praising you, because they know you possess many extraordinary qualities, but are only showing you their usual courtesy. The occasion to praise may come hereafter. Your predecessor has very much oppressed the Indians, and they go to your threshold in the hope that you will redress the wrong done.

The condition of India may be compared to a boy placed on a high shelf by his step-mother for repeatedly asking her for bread, but seeing his father come asking to be only let down, forgetting all about bread. The Indians are likewise asking for no favour, but to be relieved of the sufferings created for them by Lord Curzon.

It is to be regretted that Your Excellency should have refused audience to the representatives of the people. They did not expect this from you at least.

The people were building high hopes of their deliverance on some of your speeches, in the course of which you were pleased to say that your aim would be to spread peace and prosperity in the country.

You are no doubt between the two horns of a dilemma like the father of the boy on the shelf. Official prestige which is your newly-married charming

wife is attracting you on one side, while the poor boy, i.e., the subject-people, are appealing to you for deliverance on the other. You have to choose between letting the people alone and keeping the official prestige, but there is another course, viz., to save the people by winning over the officials to your side.

You may do what you think it to be your duty. The people have given themselves up to despair. This is a country where you may do anything without much deliberation. The sycophants will be always by your side. You are receiving addresses from the people on your arrival, although you are not giving them any hopes. You will receive similar addresses when you will be leaving this country.

People will vote you a statue and pay lakhs for it, as they are doing for your predecessor, although they are groaning under the weight of his oppression.

So far with our appeal: we now conclude this with a prayer to God to bless you with health and happiness and good name during your stay in this country.

27. The *Dacca Prakash* [Dacca] of the 24th December draws the attention of the Eastern Bengal and Assam Government

Several buildings in Dacca damaged within a short time of their construction.

to the fact that several buildings in Dacca constructed under the supervision of the Public Works Officer, Babu Krishna Chandra Banerji, have

sustained serious injuries within a short time of their construction. The walls of the newly erected local Madrassa Boarding, for instance, are cracked, and one of the pillars has given way near the base so as to be hanging from the roof. The roof of the newly erected Training School building is also said to leak. The walls of the house lately erected for the Assistant Jailer are also said to be cracked.

*DACCA PRAKASH,*  
Dec. 24th, 1905.

### III.—LEGISLATION.

28. Referring to the replies given by Government to the Hon'ble

Lord Minto and affairs in Eastern Bengal.

Rai Sri Ram Bahadur's interpellations at the last meeting of the Supreme Legislative Council relating to affairs in Eastern Bengal, the *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 21st December writes

*SRI SRI VISHNU-PRIYA-O-ANANDA-BAZAR PATRIKA,*  
Dec. 21st 1905.

as follows :—

If the Government of India does not keep itself informed regarding reports published in newspapers, what is the use of appealing to it for redress and relief? It may be said that Lord Minto has not as yet found time to gather information regarding affairs in Eastern Bengal, but Sir A. Arundel's replies show that His Excellency is, as a matter of fact, no stranger to the situation. He knows, for instance, that the people of the new Province have become lawless, that they fear nobody, that they intimidate Magistrates and Europeans. He is also aware that the Lieutenant-Governor of Eastern Bengal and Assam has taken steps to suppress the prevailing disturbances in that part of the country, and he supports the action of the Provincial Government in the present crisis. It follows from all this that in this matter, His Excellency has turned a deaf ear to the cries of the oppressed people, and believed everything that was told him by their oppressors as Gospel truth. In this state of things, where shall we go for redress? Who will give us justice? Nevertheless the belief in the public mind is that, however much Lord Minto may have supported Mr. Fuller in public as shown by Sir A. Arundel's replies in the Council, His Excellency's private instructions to His Honour must have been such as would very probably prevent the administration of the latter from assuming the character of the rule of Shaista Khan. A great man of Lord Minto's character can never be so mean as to turn a deaf ear to an appeal for justice. But the effect of the manner in which His Excellency has publicly supported Mr. Fuller is already being felt in the country. Mr. Fuller and his Subordinate Magistrates are proclaiming a sort of Government which even the Tsar of all the Russias would be ashamed to associate himself with, and which, though it may do honour to a Shaista Khan or a Hottentot Chief, cannot but cast a blot on the civilised British rule, renowned as it is for its love of justice.

SAMAY,  
Dec. 22nd, 1905.

29. Referring to Government's replies to the Hon'ble Rai Sri Ram Bahadur's interpellations in the Supreme Legislative Council relating to affairs in Eastern Bengal, the Lord Minto and affairs in Council relating to affairs in Eastern Bengal, the *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 22nd December says:—

All our hopes regarding Lord Minto have been destroyed. The replies referred to above foreshadow His Excellency's future administration in India. Crushed as we already are, his powerful rule will crush us more. It need hardly be said that the replies in question will have the effect of increasing the vagaries of rulers like Mr. Fuller. We were born to weep, and weep we must. But even weeping on our part is interdicted as seditious.

BANGAVASI,  
Dec. 23rd, 1905.

30. Referring to the replies given by Government to certain questions in the Supreme Legislative Council relating to affairs in Eastern Bengal, the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 23rd December says that many people are of opinion

that, although Lord Minto has supported Mr. Fuller's actions in Eastern Bengal in the Council, yet His Excellency's private instructions to His Honour were surely of a different character, because as a matter of fact police and official oppression has abated in the new Province. A brave man like His Excellency can never be expected to remain indifferent to oppressions committed on weak and innocent people living under his rule. He is the representative of the King-Emperor in India. He should make such arrangements as would save both the *prestige* of the Government and the lives of the people. Let him guide Mr. Fuller well and that will confer the benefit of wise guidance on Mr. Fuller's subordinates and peace on the people. Let law be honoured everywhere, and those that break it be punished.

RATNAKAR,  
Dec. 23rd, 1905.

31. Referring to the reply given to Rai Sri Ram Bahadur's interpellation in the Supreme Legislative Council, the *The reply to Rai Sri Ram Ratnakar* [Asansol] of the 23rd December says that the reply has very well proved the new

Viceroy's affection for his subjects. What a kind-hearted man His Excellency must be! Are Lords Curzon and Minto pupils of the same master? The leaders of the people must be a stupid and shameless set, if this reply fails to open their eyes, and they still hope to redress their grievances by making representations to the authorities. They ought to know that all *Feringhees* are chips of the same block and have no difference among them. They are all guided by the same principle.

HITVARTA,  
Dec. 24th, 1905.

32. In the answers given by the Government of India to the interpellations of the Hon'ble Babu Sri Ram in the Interpellations. Council, the *Hitvarta* [Calcutta] of the 24th, December finds an indication of the administrative policy of Lord Minto, and asks why the Government did not keep itself informed of the state of affairs at Barisal, and why did the Hon'ble Sir A. Arundel not feel ashamed to reply in the way he did?

The horrible state of things revealed by the reports of the correspondent of the *Statesman* and Mr. Pugh should have been put a stop to, instead of being ignored by the Government.

There is no doubt the Government have, by expressing their ignorance, adopted a safer course, as there was no opportunity left to them to contradict the above reports or call them exaggerated. Lord Minto is opposed to the participation of the student community in the *Swadeshi* agitation, because he knows that, if that agitation proves successful, Indians will become powerful and would also frustrate the object for which Bengal has been divided, namely, the weakening of the Bengali nation.

In addressing Lord Minto, the newspaper says:—

"You may support the Gurkha rule, but we will not give up the *Swadeshi* agitation, for we know that the very existence of the Indians depends on its success."

HINDI BANGAVASI,  
Dec. 25th, 1905.

33. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 25th December is not a little surprised that the Government should have expressed its ignorance of the state of things at Barisal when the Hon'ble Babu Sri Ram interpellated it on the subject.

34. The same paper, however, believes that, in spite of the above  
 Mr. Fuller a changed man. answer, Government has given good advice to  
 Mr. Fuller, for nothing serious is now being heard  
 from Barisal, and the Lieutenant-Governor was very courteous to the people  
 during his last visit to that place.

HINOK BANGAVASI,  
 Dec. 25th, 1905.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.  
 35. Commenting on the Resolution of the Government of India  
 Famine in Native States. regarding the subjects of the Native States  
 wandering in the British Provinces during famine,  
 the *Hitvarta* [Calcutta] of the 24th December writes:—

HITVARTA,  
 Dec. 24th, 1905.

The Resolution is an evidence of sympathy and kindness on the part  
 of Government towards the subjects of the Native States, but our prayer is  
 that it may not be a source of any injustice to rulers of these States.  
 The Government, it is hoped, satisfies itself that sufficient efforts have been  
 made by the rulers before issuing any orders.

#### V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

36. The *Hitvarta* [Calcutta] of the 24th December, not being satisfied  
 The present outlook in the with the measures adopted by the Government of  
 United Provinces. the United Provinces to combat the impending  
 famine by granting *taccavis* and remitting revenue,  
 urges on it to remain alive to the present situation which is critical and may  
 otherwise end in a loss of human beings by starvation.

HITVARTA,  
 Dec. 24th, 1905.

#### VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

37. The *Al Panch* [Bankipore] of the 16th November promises to deal  
 The *Swadeshi*. with the question of the *Swadeshi* agitation at length  
 in a future issue, and to show how it is injurious to  
 the best interests of the Musalmans. To its supporters, the paper asks to  
 consult their own conscience and to consider the consequences that are likely  
 to follow the agitation.

AL PANCH,  
 Nov. 16th, 1905.

38. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 21st December says that the time has  
 The *Swadeshi* movement. come when people should work in the cause of the  
*Swadeshi* movement with calmness and without  
 much fuss and much crying of *Bande Mataram*. We have our homes, says the  
 writer, our villages and our societies and associations, and let us work in  
 them. Let us improve our societies and associations. Let us foster unity  
 among ourselves, so that no Hindu or Musalman may be prompted by self-  
 interest to injure his fellow-countryman.

JYOTI,  
 Dec. 21st, 1905.

39. The *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 22nd December thus concludes an article  
 The foundations of the British headed "On what foundations should an Empire  
 Indian Empire. be established?":—

SAMAY,  
 Dec. 22nd 1905.

The English make a great blunder in dis-  
 believing and suspecting us. If, instead of oppressing and suppressing us on a  
 baseless suspicion, they give us those rights and privileges which we should  
 rightly possess, we shall gather round the English banner and defend the  
 Indian Empire for them. In that case the English will not have to suffer  
 humiliation in the world's eyes for trying to propitiate the Amir of Kabul or  
 showing an eagerness to humour Japan. But the weak, suspicious and oppres-  
 sive nature of the English will not allow them to do this, and, consequently,  
 the foundations of the British Indian Empire are in danger of being weakened,  
 with the result that the Sovereign and the subject alike will be completely  
 ruined.

40. An unmarried Hindu youth writing to the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta]  
 of the 25th December suggests as a means of social  
 A proposed social check upon check upon the inhuman oppressions committed by  
 police oppression. officious Hindu police officers upon their own  
 countrymen at the instigation of Government, with a view to suppress the  
*Swadeshi* movement, that all unmarried Hindu youths should make a solemn  
 resolve not to marry any girl who is a near relation of any of these traitors to  
 their country. Many such counteracting means, it is said, must be adopted

DAILY HITAVADI,  
 Dec. 25th, 1905.

till Government sees that this *Swadeshi* agitation is no work of man, that it is a Divine dispensation, and that it is not to be suppressed by brute force.

DAILY HITAVADI,  
Dec. 27th, 1905.

41. One S. M. Huq, a Musalman, writes to the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 27th December to remind those members of

Musalmans and the *Swadeshi* his community who are lured by the offer of movement.

employment in the public service made to them by certain English officials, how the oath taken on his Bible by the English hero in the Court of Shiraj-ud-Daula was kept by him, how Mir Jaffer, that arch-traitor to his country, but staunch ally of the English, was treated by the latter, and how the Berars have been annexed in violation of all promises. This is not the first time, it is said, that such a lure has been held out to Musalmans by the crooked-minded English Government. The writer earnestly exhorts the Bengal Musalmans not to play into the hands of the selfish English merchants and the English officials and thereby injure the sacred cause of the revival of indigenous industries.

Men may be taken in once or twice or thrice, but not again and again. The less judicious members of the Hindu and Musalman communities do, it is true, evince mutual hatred from time to time, but there is for all that a strong feeling of fellowship and sympathy between those two communities, engendered by long residence together, as is evidenced by each of them taking part in the festivals of the other. The rejoicings expressed by the Hindus over Turkish victories over Russia are also contrasted with quite a different sort of feeling that was manifested by the English on those occasions. Finally, it is pointed out that Bengal is, not only the home, but also the cemetery of their forefathers, and that their scriptures enjoin respect for cemeteries, if not for native land, and to disobey this injunction of their scriptures would be to act like a heterodox.

SANDHYA,  
Dec. 21st, 1905.

42. One effect of holding a *purda* party at Belvedere will be, writes the *Sandhya* [Calcutta] of the 21st December, that in future Vicereines, wives of Governors or Lieutenant-Governors, and even of District Officers, will hold

such parties on their own account. What a fun that will be?

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,  
Dec. 22nd, 1905.

43. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 22nd December accords a most hearty and joyous welcome to their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales on behalf of its subscribers and the entire Musalman community in Bengal. The writer proceeds to address his co-religionists in the following terms:—

Dowa with all personal quarrels in the endeavour to do your duty. Do not waste time in political agitations. Do not forget your personal responsibility in going to discuss the good and bad points in your Sovereign. Try to perpetuate the memory of this Royal visit by some work of permanent national benefit. Above all, pray to the Almighty to bless their Royal Highnesses.

SANDHYA,  
Dec. 22nd, 1905.

44. The *Sandhya* [Calcutta] of the 22nd December publishes a communicated poem headed "The title-hunter's song," in which those people who intend to send their *purdanashin* women to Belvedere are called title-hunting slaves of *Feringees* and traitors to their country.

HITVARTA,  
Dec. 24th, 1905.

45. Referring to the coming elections in England, the *Hitvarta* [Calcutta] of the 24th December says that its Mr. Morley and the coming only fears are for the Hon'ble Mr. Morley whose elections. continuation in its present office depends on the success of the Liberals.

HITVARTA.

46. Referring to the recent decision of the mixed Court at Shanghai by Chinese activity at Shanghai which some women prisoners were ordered to be detained in the Municipal prison instead of in the Chinese prison and the discontent created by it among the Chinese, the same paper writes:—

The Chinese are now trying to regain their lost prestige by all means in their power, as the oppression and high handedness of the vain Europeans have opened their eyes to their present condition. It is the fear of the stick which keeps the monkey afraid.

47. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 25th December in addressing Englishmen should be candid. Englishmen, says:—

We have to do your bidding, whatever it may be, although it may appear unjust to others. If you, therefore, say we must not use home-made articles but take European goods only, we shall have to do it, for who can oppose you.

HINDI BANGAVASI,  
Dec. 25th, 1905.

Why not say so openly. All that we want you to do is to be candid with us. The Hindus have come to suffer, and there is none but the mother of the Universe to protect them. We ask you again to be frank and candid with us.

#### URIYA PAPERS.

48. The *Manorama* [Baripada] of the 11th December states that cholera prevails in Dhanpur, a village near Baripada.

MANORAMA,  
Dec. 11th, 1905.

49. The *Uriya and Navasambad* [Balasore] of the 13th December regrets

Scarcity of food apprehended in Balasore. to find that food-stuffs are selling at high prices, even in the present harvest season, and apprehends a scarcity of food in the near future. This state

URIYA AND  
NAVASAMBAD  
Dec. 13th, 1905.

of things is due to the insufficient paddy crop that is being reaped by the people of that district.

50. The same paper is sorry to find that, though Government has held

The question of increase of pay for Ministerial and Educational officers. out hopes of increase of pay to its Ministerial officers, nothing practical has been as yet done in that direction. In the same way, though

URIYA AND  
NAVASAMBAD.

the Bengal scheme for the improvement of the prospects of its Educational officers has been sanctioned by the India Government, no attempt is being made to give effect to it. The writer hopes that Government will try its best to have a contented class of teachers and professors and an efficient class of Ministerial officers in its service.

UTKALDIPAKA,  
Dec. 15th, 1905.

The health of Puri town.

UTKALDIPAKA.

51. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 15th December reports that the health of Puri town is good.

MANORAMA,  
Dec. 11th, 1905.

52. The same paper states that the temperature is low and cold, and cough prevails in the Cuttack town.

MANORAMA.

53. The *Manorama* [Baripada] of the 11th December is sorry to learn A Bengali Settlement Officer assaulting a Sonthal. that the Bengali Settlement Officer of Brahmanghati, in Mayurbhanj, while walking on the road, assaulted a Sonthal subject of the Maharaja of that State, because the latter failed to salute him. The writer observes that this is improper, and that Indians must not imitate any bad habit of Englishmen, specially when they have to deal with their own countrymen.

MANORAMA.

54. The same paper draws the attention of the Chairman of the Baripada Municipality to the fact that, while country carts are taxed, carriages drawn by horses are exempted from taxation. The writer asks the local authorities to remove this inequality at an early date and to fix the rates of fair to be charged by such carriages.

MANORAMA.

55. Referring to the territorial redistribution in Bengal, the same paper suggests that the consolidated Orissa Province may be divided into Northern Orissa, including the Uriya portion of the Midnapore district, Balasore, Cuttack and the Northern Tributary and Feudatory States and Southern Orissa, including Ganjam, Puri, Sambalpur and the Southern Tributary and Feudatory States, each portion being placed under a separate Commissioner. It is urged that this will obviate the necessity of having a separate Political Agent for the Native States of that Province.

MANORAMA.

56. The same paper regrets to notice a serious case of theft, committed in the Baripada railway station, in which the lock of the railway godown was broken and a large quantity of goods carried off.

MANORAMA.

A theft in the Baripada railway station.

MANORAMA,  
Dec. 11th, 1905.

A generous act of the Dewan of  
Mayurbhanj.

MANORAMA.

UTKALDIPAKA.  
Dec. 16th, 1905.

A defect in the national character  
of the Uriyas.

Pleader, the *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 16th December and the *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 13th December observe that the attendance was very small, and that the Uriyas have not as yet learnt to respect their own great men.

URIYA AND  
NAVASAMVAD.  
Dec. 13th, 1905.

A proposal to utilise the scholarship  
created by the District Board, Cuttack.

[Balasore] of the 13th December points out that, as the Uriyas have failed to avail themselves of the scholarship, an attempt should be made to make it tenable in some medical, agricultural or weaving institution.

ALL URIYA PAPERS.

60. Referring to the monthly scholarship of Rs. 20 created by the District Board of Cuttack for the benefit of students willing to prosecute their studies in the Shibpur Engineering College, the *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 13th December points out that, as the Uriyas have failed to avail themselves of the scholarship, an attempt should be made to make it tenable in some medical, agricultural or weaving institution.

UTKALDIPAKA,  
Dec. 16th, 1905.

Demise of Babu Joygobinda  
Laha, C.I.E.

services in Bengal.

61. All the native papers of Orissa seem to take great interest in the tour of their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales through India, and they wish them a successful and safe journey back to home.

UTKALDIPAKA.

62. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 16th December regrets to notice the death of Babu Joygobinda Laha, C.I.E., who

was known to the Uriyas as the zamindar of Harispur, and who was distinguished for his public

UTKALDIPAKA.

Loyalty to the Throne.

The new Liberal Ministry.

63. The same paper seems to be satisfied with the present constitution

of the new Ministry in England, and hopes that the

Liberals will be able to maintain their ground during

the ensuing election in February next.

UTKALDIPAKA.

64. The same paper regrets that some Indians have subscribed to the

Curzon Memorial Fund, and observes that the

Indians suffer because they are not of one mind.

Europeans may subscribe to the Fund, as Lord Curzon did them some good; but Indians should keep themselves aloof from the undertaking, as Lord Curzon did them more harm than good.

UTKALDIPAKA.

Mr. Duke well spoken of in  
Pal Lahera.

65. In giving an account of Mr. Duke's tour through Pal Lahera, the same paper points out that two traits in his character, namely, his sympathy with loom industry in Pal Lahera and his extraordinary power of

walking on foot, have highly commended him to the notice of the Garjat people.

UTKALDIPAKA.

The Maharaja of Mayurbhanj  
condemned for his patronage of  
Bengalis.

66. A Calcutta Uriya writes to the same paper to say that *Manorama*, the weekly paper of Baripada, is not bold enough to speak out the truth, for it does not write anything against the present policy of the Maharaja, whereby the Bengalis have been permitted to monopolise all the loaves and fishes of the State and to Europeanise the administration beyond proper limits.

UTKALDIPAKA.

Gopenathpur *tol* needs public  
help.

67. The Padmapur correspondent of the same paper states that the

Sanskrit *tol* at Gopenathpur, in that pargana, stands in need of public help, and that an attempt should be made to place the institution on a satisfactory

footing.

( 1239 )

ASSAM PAPERS.

68. The *Paridarshak* [Sylhet] of the 21st December urges the necessity of appointing a lady doctor in Sylhet, and of opening a female cut-door dispensary in connection with the Shaikghat charitable dispensary. The lady doctor should be an Assistant Surgeon, or at least a passed student of the Campbell Medical School, in Calcutta.

Wanted a lady doctor, etc., for  
Sylhet.

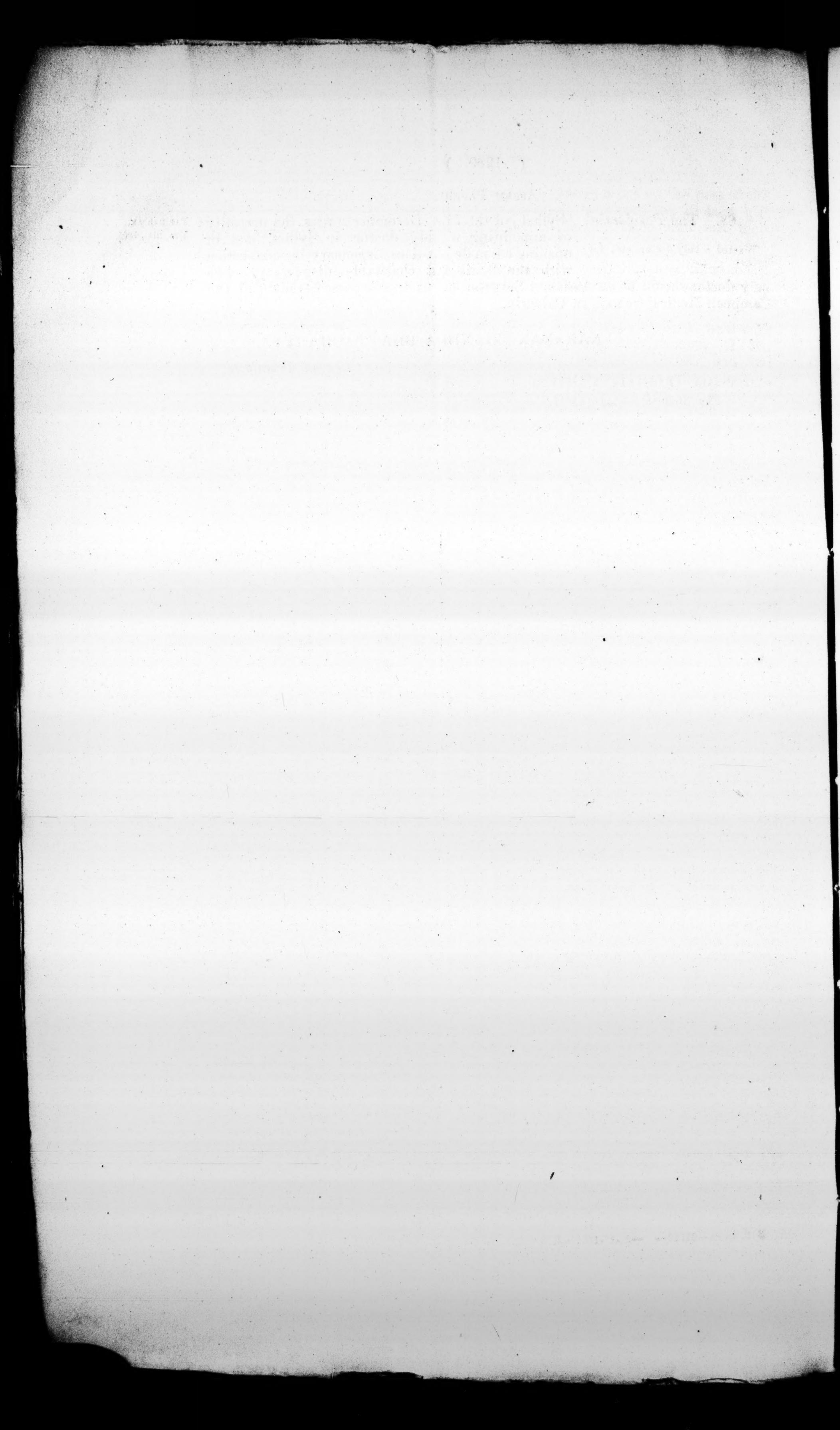
PARDARSHAK.  
Dec. 21st, 1905.

lady doctor should be an Assistant Surgeon, or at least a passed student of the Campbell Medical School, in Calcutta.

NARAYAN CHANDRA BHATTACHARYYA,

*Bengali Translator.*

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,  
*The 30th December 1905.*



**CONFIDENTIAL.]**

[No. 52 of 1905.

## REPORT (PART II)

ON

### NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending Saturday, 30th December 1905.

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## II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

## (a) Police.

1680. The *Amrita Basar Patrika* writes that, as if to add insult to injury,

The punitive police at Bonari-  
para. the quarters of the punitive police stationed at Bonaripara, are being constructed in the very heart of the village between the two reserved tanks which

furnish the inhabitants with their water-supply, and which are therefore frequented at all hours of the day and night by men and women alike. Moreover, the site selected for the police building has deprived a certain resident of the only spot on which he could have erected a dwelling-house, so that he will now have to leave his native village. It passes all comprehension why the police quarters were not erected on the outskirts of the village or on a less frequented spot.

1681. Referring to the presence of a Muhammadan Sub-Inspector of Police in the Brahmo Church at Boalis on Sunday last when Divine Service was being conducted, the

*Bengalee* writes that Mr. A. C. Sen, the Sessions Judge, has since his arrival been officiating as Minister of that church. Could it have been that the Sub-Inspector attended service on the suspicion that the judicial head of his district would preach sedition?

1682. In view of the tyranny and oppression that defenceless citizens are being subjected to in the new province, *Power and Guardian* does not hesitate to set Mr. Fuller down

Ibid. as a 'moral coward.' At Bonaripara the police are making themselves notorious by their lawlessness. Why were punitive police ever quartered in that doomed village? Is there a tittle of evidence to justify this measure? Mr. Fuller should change his present policy without a second's thought and set the people at liberty once again.

1683. There is no denying the fact, writes the *Bengalee*, that, encouraged by the reign of repression now existing in the new

The police out of hand in the new province. province, the police have got beyond control.

The Assam Police stationed at Serajganj were a terror to the people and were happily withdrawn. The force stationed at Bonaripara, is no better than a plundering one, and the lawlessness it indulged in produced such an effect on the people that they prayed to Mr. Fuller to come to their village and see things for himself. The Rajshahi Police have also made themselves notorious by recently dispersing a peaceful meeting which was about to be held in a *private* place. The fact that bigger meetings were subsequently held shows that their action was perfectly high-handed and illegal. Mr. Fuller should realise that he cannot play the part of Shaista Khan without converting every subordinate of his into a miniature despot. The consequence is that intense irritation is caused throughout the province. The partition of Bengal was a great mistake, but the appointment of Mr Fuller is a still more serious blunder.

1684. The *Amrita Basar Patrika* complains that police rule has practically supplanted a reign of law and order in many places in the new province. On the 30th

Police rule. November, the Mymensingh police, greatly agitated by the sight of a few students entreating their countrymen not to sell *bilat* goods, sallied forth and belaboured all who came in contact with them. The same police, however, are doing all in their power to induce shopkeepers to sell only foreign goods. The Muhammadans are being urged to hold meetings to protest against the *Swadeshi* movement. If the police are acting *suo motu*, it amounts to a serious disrespect of higher authority, and if they are acting under orders, the situation is graver still. At Sirajganj it was discovered that the police had made out a list of persons who were to be assaulted. The matter was reported to the Magistrate and the police were prohibited from patrolling the street only after 11 leading inhabitants of the town had been ensnared into signing a document prepared by the Magistrate himself and in which they undertook to do certain things more or less affecting the *Swadeshi* movement. The journal places these facts before the Viceroy with a view to acquainting His Excellency with the manner in which the country is managed by his subordinates.

AMRITA BASAR  
PATRIKA.  
23rd Dec. 1905.

BENGALEE,  
24th Dec. 1905

POWER AND  
GUARDIAN.  
24th Dec. 1905.

BENGALEE,  
23rd Dec. 1905

AMRITA BASAR  
PATRIKA,  
23rd Dec. 1905.

## (b)—Working of the Courts.

POWER AND  
GUARDIAN,  
24th Dec. 1905.

1685. *Power and Guardian* writes that the sudden collapse of the Rajshahi students, case after the witnesses for the prosecution were examined and cross-examined and the case for the defence had been closed, is unexpected indeed. The reason for the withdrawal, however, is clear enough, judging from the facts of the case. On the 24th November, a student remonstrated with a tailor for lining his (the student's) coat with foreign cloth. This is all that actually happened, but an over-zealous Muhammadan Inspector took up the inquiry and arrested two other persons besides the student. The information, however, that was elicited in the cross-examination is startling indeed, and the journal begs Lord Minto to send for the record of the case and to satisfy himself as to what is passing in the new province. While the police record showed that the First Information Report had been recorded, read over to the complainant and signed at 8-30 A.M., the complainant affirms that this was done at 12-30 P.M. The Sub-Inspector's explanation is that though the information was recorded at 8-30 P.M., it was not signed till 12-30 P.M., through an oversight. But this is not all. At the foot of the A Form in which the Sub-Inspector sent up the case for trial, was recorded the following remark:—'They can pay any amount, if fined. I mean they can pay Rs. 500 each.' On being questioned as to the object of the remark, the Sub-Inspector explained that he had written it in accordance with circular orders. The journal protests against this hidden circular which empowers a prosecuting officer to throw out hints regarding the pecuniary circumstances of an accused, and would like to see this 'infamous prejudicial, illegal, and obnoxious circular dragged out from its hiding-place and exposed to the public view to be hooted out of existence.'

BENGALEE,  
27th Dec. 1905.

1686. *The Bengalee* is strongly of opinion that the Government should move the High Court against the decision of the Magistrate of Monghyr in the case of Babu Kumla Sahai *versus* Babu Sivanandan Prosad Singh and his peons. This case was instituted on the ground that a serious assault had been committed on the complainant by the peons of Babu Sivanandan Prosad Singh at the latter's instigation. It was proved that five of the accused's peons were implicated in the assault, but only two were convicted. Moreover, owing to the lightness of the sentence, it will not have a deterrent effect, while on the other hand the impression will gain ground that daring assaults can be committed with impunity upon innocent citizens by the retainers of wealthy and powerful people. Sivanandan Babu, who was charged with aiding and abetting the accused, was acquitted by the Magistrate on the ground of his respectability and also in view of the untrustworthiness of the complainant. The journal urges that on the contrary the Magistrate should have held the accused Sivanandan to be untrustworthy as the *alibi* he tried to set up in defence was disproved, and the Magistrate found that he was actually present in the Municipal Office at the time the assault was committed on the complainant. Thus the Magistrate was convinced that the accused had put forward a false plea. How then could he have held that it was improbable for a man in Sivanandan's position to have instigated an assault on a man who admittedly had previously insulted the accused's grandfather in open Court? There were other very serious allegations made by the prosecution but these were unhesitatingly set aside by the Magistrate, although they demanded a careful inquiry. The journal hopes that in these circumstances Sir Andrew Fraser will send for the records of the case and direct the Legal Remembrancer to consider the advisability of moving the High Court.

## c)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

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1687. *The Bengalee* writes that the footpath on the eastern side of that portion of Chitpur Road which is between Harrison Road and Colootollah Street is so narrow that it is almost a miracle how accidents do not occur more frequently there. To emphasise the hardship on the public, this narrow strip of footpath is taken possession of by Kabuli fruit-sellers every Christmas season, so that there is not even standing room between the extremities of the almost unbroken line of

shops and the tram line. Do those who encroach on the footpath at such serious inconvenience to the public pay any rent? If so, to whom are the rents credited and who settles them? The journal thinks that the annual letting out of footpaths should cease, as it places a premium on the occurrence of accidents and causes no little inconvenience to those who have to pass along the most crowded thoroughfares in the town.

## (h)—General.

1688. The *Bengalee* writes that little did Messrs. Carlyle and Lyon Picketing by Magistrates. ‘the well-known manufacturers of official circulars and proclamations,’ dream that the very means they had adopted to crush the *Swadeshi* movement would so speedily defeat their own object and stultify the Government. Picketing was sought to be denounced and suppressed, but to-day District Officers, notably Messrs. Botham and Briscoe, of Faridpur, have taken ardently to this pastime and are frightening shopkeepers into importing foreign articles.

These two officers are reported to have openly threatened the salt merchants of Madaripur with the cancellation of their warehouse licenses in the event of their failing to import Liverpool salt within 10 or 15 days.

It would appear that, not being able to picket successfully, the authorities are seeking excuses to pick quarrels with people. Will not Mr. Fuller even now perceive the inexcusable bungling of his subordinates and endeavour to curb their growing spirit of lawlessness?

1689. *Power and Guardian* writes that on Sunday last, a conference of local cloth merchants was held at Madaripur, when several Mr. Briscoe, Subdivisional Officer, Madaripur. respectable townsmen were present and the Chairman of the Municipality presided. The object of the meeting was to induce the shopkeepers to sell only country-made goods. When the proceedings were at an end, Mr. Briscoe appeared on the scene and inquired of the Chairman the object of the meeting. The latter explained it to him and added that only moral persuasion was used with the merchants. The Subdivisional Officer then informed the Chairman that he was acting against the orders of Government, and further intimidated him by threatening to enrol some of the respectable men of the locality as special constables. This case affords the clearest evidence as to the object of official interference. How long will the Government of India continue to tolerate such obnoxious proceedings on the part of the Eastern Bengal authorities?

1690. The *Bengalee* expresses its displeasure at the discourteous way in which Mr. Fuller received the leaders of Barisal on board the *Brahmakand*. The latter were not offered seats, but were kept standing throughout the interview. This was indeed a lamentable departure from established practice, and the change was keenly felt. The journal contrasts this treatment with the excessively polite treatment accorded by the Viceroy to the deputation of Indian noblemen, but points out that ‘men of Mr. Fuller’s stamp’ cannot be expected to realise the obligations of nobility.

1691. The *Bengalee* writes that Mr. Briscoe, the Subdivisional Officer of Madaripur, is indulging in conduct unbecoming a public servant. Finding out that the salt dealers of Madaripur were not importing any more Liverpool salt, he has resorted to coercive measures of a very doubtful kind. In one case he has requested the District Magistrate to report a dealer to the Board of Revenue for the cancellation of his license because “he keeps in with the *Swadeshi* and patriotic party.” The journal draws Mr. Fuller’s attention to this matter, and asks if he is going to countenance these vagaries on the part of his subordinates. Are the people going to be punished for not importing Liverpool salt? If not, Mr. Briscoe should be removed from a position for which he is manifestly unfit. Even in the time of the most tyrannical oriental despots, this kind of *zulum* was unknown.

1692. A correspondent writing to the *Bengalee*, complains that the office of the Executive Engineer, Gandak Division, has Stoppage of holidays. not been closed during the Christmas vacation. When petitioned by the clerks on the subject, the Executive Engineer not only

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refused to remove the grievance, but indulged in a sudden and violent exhibition of temper. The writer attributes the Executive Engineer's attitude to the fact that during the last Puja vacation, when the clerks were refused the holidays to which they had earnestly looked forward a telegram was sent to Lord Curzon. Thus the poor clerks, owing to the vindictiveness of their official superior, are to be deprived of two long vacations sanctioned by Government. Will not the authorities interfere and give these down-trodden subordinates their dues?

INDIAN MIRROR,  
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1693. The *Indian Mirror* writes that some very ugly charges have been brought against Mr. Botham, Magistrate of Faridpur. It is alleged that he lately paid a visit to Madaripur and spent his time in canvassing for the Liverpool salt merchants and in threatening those who dealt only in indigenous salt with the cancellation of their licenses. It is further stated that Mr. Botham summoned the local leaders before him and warned them that if any more assaults were committed upon Europeans, he would quarter punitive police on the people.

INDIAN MIRROR,  
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1694. Although the Government of the new province has signified its intention of holding the Hindu leaders of every *mufassal* town responsible for any feeling of unrest that may be observed among the masses, the *Indian Mirror* is in a position to say that if it were not for the much-abused Hindu leaders, the people would have launched into open rebellion long ago. Thus Mr. Fuller has no reason to feel elated at the success of the punitive police campaign, but His Honour would be well advised in not trying the patience and forbearance of the people any further.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
29th Dec. 1905.

1695. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes that one of the methods employed by Mr. Fuller to wean the Muhammadans from the *Swadeshi* movement is to hold out the bait of employment. Indeed, their community have been formally requested by Government to apply for Sub-Inspectorships of Police which are going to be specially created in the new province. The Muhammadans have apparently risen to the bait, for no less than 200 applications have been filed, although it now appears that there are only 30 vacancies. This, together with the fact that a host of Muhammadans who besieged the Superintendent of Police, Mymensingh, for appointments, were insulted, has considerably damped the ardour of the entire community.

#### V.—MISCELLANEOUS.

BENGALEE,  
23rd Dec. 1905.

1696. The *Bengalee*'s interpretation of the Prime Minister's speech at the Albert Hall is that the present Liberal Government will not confirm the decision of its predecessor in regard to the question of Army Reorganization. In these circumstances it would not be surprising if Lord Kitchener were to resign his office as a protest against the rejection of the scheme he had forced upon the late Ministry.

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1697. The *Bengalee* is afraid that the Marwaris have not acted with their customary shrewdness in renewing their orders for Manchester cotton goods. Middle-class Bengalis are likely to violate their *Swadeshi* vow, more especially as the prices of indigenous cloths have declined to a figure which will not compare unfavourably with the prices of Manchester goods. Moreover, English prices are just now very high, and by the time the consignments recently indented for arrive, the market will be flooded with *Swadeshi* articles to suit all classes. The *Bengalee* accordingly warns the Marwaris against the folly of investing good money on foreign goods that in a few months more, will be a drug in the market.

AMRITA BAZAR  
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1698. If the truth must be told, writes the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, it is the *Swadeshi* movement and not the shouting of *Bande Mataram*, that has thrown both the Government and the Anglo-Indian community into a passion.

The partition was the culminating point of a retrograde policy the object of which was to repress the political aspirations of the Indians

to abolish their higher education and ostracise them from the public services. In these circumstances it was expected that the partition would have completely broken the back of the Bengali nation. But the expected has not come to pass. On the contrary, the Bengalis are politically and industrially stronger to-day than they ever were. The big English trade centres are suffering heavy losses in consequence. This is why the responsible authorities have lost their reason and are doing all in their power, legally and illegally, to overcome a situation of their own creation.

1699. The *Indian Mirror* writes that the prayer contained in the address presented by the British Indian Association to His Excellency the Viceroy, is one which will be

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echoed and re-echoed from every point of India. The repressive measures enacted by Lord Curzon have created a widespread discontent and insecurity throughout the country, and this disturbed state is bad both for the people and the Government. The fact is that India has outgrown the existing system of administration which has got to be recast and readjusted to harmonise with the present feelings and growing aspirations of the people. To persist in the old system of government is to misgovern the country and court disaster. The people demand a greater share in the ruling of their country and they must have it sooner or later. It is autonomy that India wants and it is on the grant of autonomy that the stability of British rule depends.

1700. The *Indian Mirror* writes that nearly a century's English education and familiarity with Western ideas of life and

A word in season.

government have imperceptibly wrought a change

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in the mind of the people—a change it would be unwise to ignore, much less to militate against, as Lord Curzon has done, by his series of repressive acts. It is abundantly clear that the country is in a state of great discontent, and that the proverbial Russian menace is much more real than it ever was. In these circumstances a conciliatory home policy is eminently necessary—a policy that will convert the masses into ardent supporters. But for Japan, England is friendless and alone, and it is certain that Japan cannot look with favour upon the treatment the Indians are being subjected to. Thus it would only be wise for England to abandon the hateful policy she has hitherto been pursuing with regard to India.

1701. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* protests against the exclusion of some well-known noblemen from taking any part in the

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Reception of the Prince of Wales. functions to be observed on the 2nd January next to receive His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.

A deplorable omission is the name of the Nawab of Bogra. Not less glaring in the exclusion of Raja Ranajit Singh of Nashirpur. Why has all this amount of heart-burning been unnecessarily caused? Is there not time for the Reception Committee to rectify their mistake?

1702. The *Bengalee* understands the Traffic Superintendent, Calcutta Steam Navigation Company, has received a representation, in which serious allegations have been made against certain soldiers of the Royal Garrison Artillery.

It is alleged that they occupied 1st class cabins, although they held 2nd class tickets, and were accordingly handed over to the Station-Master at Fulta, for the recovery of the excess fare. Making free use of the steamer, commandeering eatables, and stumbling over Indian gentlemen—and sometimes ladies—are common offences, and the journal trusts that the Military will make an inquiry into the matter.

1703. The *Bengalee* writes that the Hon'ble Mr. Fuller has at last found a pupil, and a very apt one too, in the Dewan of

The Junagadh Fuller. Junagadh, a principality in the Bombay Presidency.

This minister has issued a stringent proclamation warning all subjects against taking part in or fostering the *Swadeshi* movement in any manner whatsoever. If the Dewan has issued this document *suo motu* and not under pressure from certain quarters, he is really to be pitied.

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28th Dec. 1905.

OFFICE OF THE INSPR.-GENL.  
OF POLICE, L. P.  
WRITERS' BUILDINGS,  
The 30th December 1905.  
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F. C. DALY,  
Asst. to the Inspr.-Genl. of Police, L. P.